

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final Office Action of May 13, 2008, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1-3 and 6 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-7 remain pending upon entry of this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claim 3.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Corrigendum 1 to Recommendation H.248 (“H.248”) referencing RFC 2409 in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,089,211 to Trostle *et al.* (“Trostle”). Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over H.248 (and RFC 2409) in view of Trostle and Cryptography and Network Security by William Stallings (“Stallings”). It appears that claims 5-7 also stand rejected under the same grounds and based on one or more of the references cited for claims 1, 2 and 4, although no specific indication of such is provided. Clarification is respectfully requested. Regardless, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a Media Gateway and a Media Gateway Controller performing a registration therebetween and generating a shared key having a specific lifetime during the registration of said Media Gateway with said Media Gateway Controller by validating signaling messages used in the registration using the Media Gateway and the Media Gateway Controller’s respective initial keys, wherein the signaling messages include a parameter for generating the shared key and an initial digital signature generated by the initial key. Nowhere do any of the cited references, either separately or in combination, teach or suggest such features. In particular, neither H.28 nor Trostle teaches or suggests the generation of a shared key having a specific lifetime during the registration of the Media Gateway and the Media Gateway Controller. The Office Action asserts at pp. 2-3 that RFC 2409, referenced in H.28, describes that each party may have their own key to validate a digital signature as a means for

authentication. Even if this assertion is correct, which Applicant does not concede, there is still no teaching or suggestion that the key is generated during the registration of the Media Gateway with the Media Gateway Controller. Neither H.28 nor Trost cures the above identified deficiencies. Although not cited in the rejection of claim 1, Stallings also fails to cure the deficiencies of RFC 2409 with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable for at least these reasons.

Claim 1 further recites, *inter alia*, “for each call, said Media Gateway Controller and said Media Gateway authenticating a call message and a response message, each of which is attached with a digital signature by using the shared key.” H.28, RF 2409 and Trost are all devoid of any teaching or suggestion of such features. Indeed, a similar feature was previously recited in claim 3, which the Office Action indicated as allowable. The Office Action even concedes at p. 5, that the Examiner is unable to find any reference teaching the attachment of a digital signature to each call or any reference that would render such features obvious. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable for at least these reasons.

Claims 2 and 4-7 are dependent on claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

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Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2008

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3156.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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By: /Chunhsi Andy Mu/

Chunhsi Andy Mu
Registration No. 58,216

1100 13th Street, N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001